(d) whether it is also a fact that delay occurs at Vijayawada Railway Station; and

(e) the steps proposed to improve traffic movement at Vijayawada Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The run of trains is being monitored on a real time basis to minimise avoidable detentions apart from conducting intensive food plate inspections.

**Proposed running of North Bengal Express**

1168. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the propsed North Bengal Express from Sealdah to Cooachbehar will be a train at par with Shatabdi Express;

(b) if not, whether a Shatabdi-like Express to North Bengal would be introducted as assured during the discussion on Railways Budget (Supplementary) on 14th August, 1997; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the commitment made-3147/3148 Uttar Banga Express between Sealdah and New Cooach Behar has already been introduced from 20.5.98. No commitment for the introduction of a Shatabdi type train was made.

**Railway Stations under Private Control in Punjab**

1169. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of Railway Stations in Punjab are under private control since independence;

(b) if so, their names, district-wise, as on 15th March, 1993;

(c) whether these private owned railway stations have not been providing basic amenities to the passengers travelling from these stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have been requested to take over these railway stations under their control during 1993; and

(f) if so, the names of these stations and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) There are 47 halt stations in the State of Punjab managed by halt contractors.

(a) A statement is attached. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) All basic amenities have been provided at these contractor opearted halt stations, which are considered adequate for the present level of passenger traffic at these stations.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise

**Statement**

| Name of Halt Station | District |
|---|---|
| 1. Bhattian | Jallandhar |
| 2. Dhogri | Jallandhar |
| 3. Ajitgill Matta | Firozpur |
| 4. Dhindsa | Firozpur |
| 5. Maheshri Sandhuan | Firozpur |
| 6.Parao Mahna | Firozpur |
| 7. Khai Phermeki | Firozpur |
| 8. D.A.V. College (Jalalabad) | Firozpur |

| Name of Halt Station | District |
|---|---|
| 9. Thch Qalandar | Firozpur |
| 10. Jhabelwali | Mukerian |
| 11. Charewan | Mukerian |
| 12. Badhai Balamgarh | Mukerian |
| 13. Lyallpur Khalsa College (Jullunddur Halt) | Jallandhar |
| 14. D.A.V. College, Halt Jalandhar | Jallandhar |
| 15. Rail Coach Factory | Kapurthala |
| 16. Gumtali | Jallandhar |
| 17. Gahandran | Jallandhar |
| 18. Sridhar | Jallandhar |
| 19. Kariha | Nava Shahar |
| 20. Mandhali | Kapurthala |
| 21. Batala Sugar Mills | Amritsar |
| 22. Jhawar | Gurdaspur |
| 23. Kultham Abdulla Shah | Jallandhar |
| 24. Ratar Chhattar | Gurdaspur |
| 25. Satnaur Badesron | Nave Shahar |
| 26. Rure Asal | Amritsar |
| 27. Kahangarh | Bhatinda |
| 28. Datewas | Bhatinda |
| 29. Patiala Cant | Patiala |
| 30. Kalhemajra | Patiala |
| 31. Kakrala | Patiala |
| 32. Rajomajra | Sangrur |
| 33. Rohira Ghallughara | Sangrur |
| 34.Bharur | Sangrur |
| 35. Lalhra Khana Halt | Bhatinda |
| 36. Karamgarh Sardargarh | Faridkot |
| 37. Daula Kot Bhai | Faridkot |
| 38. Jassowal | Ludhiana |
| 39. Jaspalon | Ludhiana |
| 40. Gungrana | Faridkot |
| 41. Naya Nagal | Ropar |
| 42. Mohanpura | Ropar |
| 43. Qabarwala | Firozpur |
| 44. Noganwan | Ropar |
| 45. Kotli Kalan | Bhatinda |
| 46. Bhanupli | Ropar |
| 47. Bakayanwala | Ropar |

**Construction of Dahanu-Nashik Railway Line**

1170. PROF. RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a communication in November, 1997 or so, requesting for construction of Dahanu-Nashik railway line in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

**Late/Irregular running of Local Trains**

1171. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the main reasons for late/irregular running of local trains in Howrah and Sealdah Divisions of Eastern Railway is the paucity of the rakes;

(b) if so, whether there is any immediate action plan to augment number of rakes in both the divisions; and

(c) if not, the attributable factors leading to irregular/late running of local trains based on the records of the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Punctuality of Suburban trains of Eastern Railway is by and large satisfactory. However the running of trains get affected at times due to reasons such as accidents, agitations/bandhs, alarm-chain-pulling, equipment-failures, miscreant-activities, bad-weather etc.

**मालवाहक वैगनों का निर्माण**

1172. श्री राघवजी: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में मालवाहक वैगनों का उत्पादन मांग के अनुरूप नहीं हो रहा है; यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;